

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: MARCOS ON BASES- ABC INTERVIEW OF AUGUST 17

1. ABC TV TEAM TAPED 20-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH MARCOS
AUGUST 17 FOR USE THIS FALL ON US TELEVISION. FOLLOWING
ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCOS' COMMENTS ON BASES AND RELATED
SECURITY ISSUES.

2. ASKED ABOUT BASE NEGOTIATIONS, MARCOS SAID, "ONE OF THE
POSITIONS WE HAVE ADOPTED IS THAT THE MILITARY BASES
SHOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES NOT JUST OF
THE US. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE
RETENTION OF THE BASES IS THE FACT THAT THE PHILIPPINES,
LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY, HAS ITS OBLIGATIONS TO WORLD PEACE,
TO THE HUMAN FAMILY, AND CERTAINLY THE MAINTENANCE OF THE
BASES HERE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS A PART OF THE GENERAL
STRATEGY TO MAINTAIN A GLOBAL TYPE OF PEACE. IN THIS
SENSE, THEREFORE, THE PHILIPPINES IS WILLING TO
PARTICIPATE BY HAVING THE BASES CONTINUE HERE. HOWEVER,
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THERE ARE CERTAIN MATTERS WHICH FILIPINOS, WHETHER OF THIS
GENERATION OR THE PAST GENERATION, CONSIDER VERY CRUCIAL
TO OUR SOVEREIGNTY. ONE OF THEM IS JURISDICTION. AND THE
OTHER, OF COURSE, IS THE FACT THAT THOSE BASES ARE STILL
CONSIDERED AS AMERICAN BASES IN THE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY.
SO I SAY THAT THE MILITARY BASES HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES
SHOULD BE FOR BOTH THE WELFARE AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

US AND THE PHILIPPINES. THE MOMENT THEY ARE IN ANY MANNER UTILIZED JUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF ONE COUNTRY THEN THEY HAVE NO REASON FOR BEING." (THE INTERVIEWER ASKED WHETHER THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE?) "NO, BUT EVEN WHEN SITUATIONS WHERE FOR INSTANCE THE MILITARY BASES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS BEING OCCUPIED BY THE US WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATION FOR THE USE OVER THESE BASES, THEN YOU WOULD HAVE A SITUATION WHERE THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BE PREJUDICED BY THE PRESENCE OF THESE BASES."

3. MARCOS WAS ASKED WHETHER THE KB CALL FOR DISMANTLING THE BASES, LED BY HIS DAUGHTER IMEE, CONSTITUTED HIS APPROVAL FOR THE AMERICANS GETTING OUT. MARCOS LAUGHED AND SAID THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THEIR OWN LIBERAL IDEAS. HE NOTED THAT THE POSITION REFLECTED BY TH KB HAS LONG BEEN HELD BY PHILIPPINE YOUTH. HE OBSERVED THAT HE HIMSELF ADOPTED THAT POSITION AS A YOUNG MAN BUT WHEN THE WAR CAME HE FOUGHT BESIDE THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

4. AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, MARCOS WAS ASKED WHETHER MRS. MARCOS' TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS A MESSAGE TO THE US NOT TO TAKE THE PHILIPPINES FOR GRANTED. MARCOS SAID THAT THE US LEADERS HAVE BEEN TOLD THIS, NOTING AGAIN THAT A NEW GENERATION IS TAKING OVER WHICH DIDN'T FIGHT BESIDE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE WAR. THE INTERVIEWER INTERJECTED THAT MARCOS HAD EARLIER IN THE INTERVIEW DESCRIBED UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNISM AS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE PHILIPPINES AND ASKED WHY THEN WAS THE PHILIPPINES MOVING CLOSER TO THE SOVIET UNION. MARCOS SAID THAT "THE PROBLEM IS THIS, THE US HAS NOT BEEN INCLINED TO HELP THE PHILIPPINES EVEN IN FIGHTING A FOREIGN ASSISTED SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT. WE HOLD THIS AGAINST THE US. WE BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE HELPED US. BUT THE US HELD BACK. (THE INTERVIEW ENDED.) MURPHY

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